

# Dock harbour walls as biodiversity hotspots

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Vlaamse overheid



## Where?

- Harbour dock in Zeebrugge
- Harbour wall in Zeebrugge
  - Higher tidal zone
  - Lower tidal zone

## When?

- winter 2011
- spring 2012

## SOFT SUBSTRATE MACROBENTHOS

= *Macoma balthica* community

- Very low densities
- Few species



*Polydora* sp.



*Streblospio benedictii*



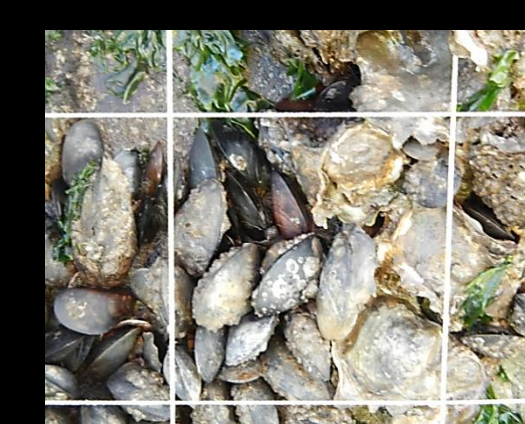
*Cirratulidae* sp.

## What & how?

- Monitoring **SOFT SUBSTRATE MACROBENTHOS**  
 -> Zeekat + Van Veen grab (250 cm<sup>2</sup>)



- Monitoring **HARD SUBSTRATE EPIFAUNA**  
 -> 2 scrape subsamples (10x10 cm) from 1 aluminium frame (50x50 cm)



## HARD SUBSTRATE EPIFAUNA + ALGAE

### SESSILE EPIFAUNA

### MOBILE EPIFAUNA

#### Higher tidal zone

- algae
- oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*)
- *Anurida maritima*
- *Polydora* sp.

#### Lower tidal zone

- less algae + oysters
- more mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)
- more amphipods (*Melita palmata*)



brown algae



*Electra pilosa*



*Aora gracilis*



*Idotea granulosa*



*Anurida maritima*



*Elminius modestus*



Acarina



*Idotea granulosa*



*Odostomia scalaris*



Isotomidae



*Telmatogeton* larve



*Corophium* sp.



*Jaera albifrons*



*Hydrophorus* larve



*Melita palmata*

#### Higher tidal zone

- brown algae
- oysters (*C. gigas*)
- mites (Acarina)
- *A. maritima*

#### Lower tidal zone

- green algae
- as much oysters
- more mussels (*M. edulis*)
- less mites
- *Telmatogeton* larvae

**HARBOUR WALL = BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT WITH AT LEAST 40 EPIFAUNA SPECIES OR TAXA!**